



## 4-H Youth Development

### 2000 Programs of Excellence

#### 4-H Facts in Brief

4-H is the Cooperative Extension System's dynamic, non-formal educational program for today's young people. The program combines the cooperative efforts of youth, volunteer leaders, state land-grant universities, state-local governments, and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of the Cooperative Extension System in conducting 4-H programs is to assist youth in developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society.

4-H programs are conducted in 3,150 counties of the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Micronesia, and Northern Mariana Islands.

4-H alumni (enrolled participants in 4-H since its beginning) now total about 46 million.

4-H-type programs are truly international with some 82 countries having similar programs which enroll approximately 4 million youth.

4-H has a 98-year tradition of voluntary action for the public-private partnerships at federal, state, county and community levels. These partnerships reflect broadly both fiscal and human resources. Private sector partners invest almost **\$100 million** annually in 4-H, through their local and state 4-H foundations, and the National 4-H Council.

#### Youth in 4-H

**6,834,338** Youth, principally K-12 grades, participated in 4-H last year (total youth in 4-H with duplications eliminated).

#### Youth participated in 4-H in the following ways:

**1,604,972** members of  
**103,603** 4-H clubs

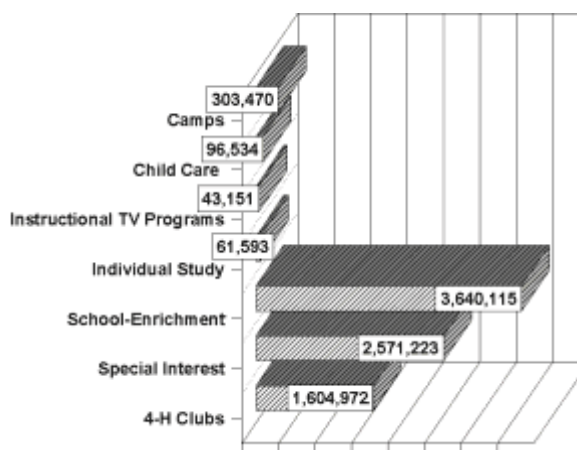
**2,571,223** members of  
**90,244** 4-H special  
interest groups

**3,640,115** in **131,912** 4-H  
school-enrichment  
groups

**61,593** in 4-H individual  
study programs

**43,151** enrolled in 4-H  
instructional TV  
programs

**96,534** in **3,551** school-  
aged child care programs.



**303,470** attended 4-H-  
conducted Camps

#### The Diversity of 4-H Youth:

**70% (4,773,840)** - white, not of Hispanic origin

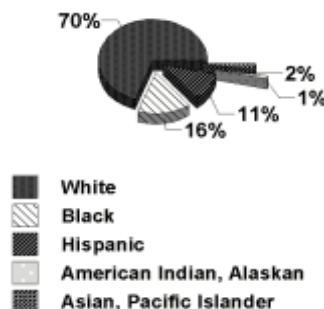
**16% ( 1,085,215)** - black not of Hispanic origin

**11% ( 730,907)** - Hispanic

**1% ( 87,964)** - American Indian, Alaskan

**2% ( 155,695)** - Asian, or Pacific Islander

Of the total number of youth in 4-H, 30% are from minority racial-ethnic groups.



#### Demographics by location:

**10% ( 676,353)** - lived on farms

**32% (2,180,488)** - lived in towns under 10,000 and open country

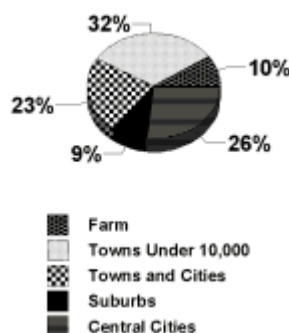
**23% (1,560,667)** - lived in towns and cities of 10,000 to 50,000

**9% ( 592,845)** - lived in suburbs of cities of over 50,000

**26% (1,823,985)** - lived in central cities 50,000+

**52% (3,574,245)** - girls

**48% (3,260,093)** - boys



#### Demographics by age:

**33% (2,246,066)** - grades K-3

**39% (2,548,069)** - grades 4-6

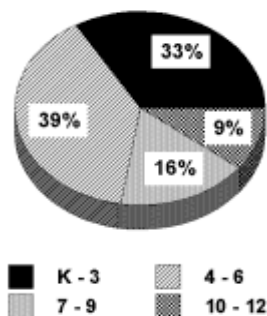
**16% ( 1,135,755)** - grades 7-9

**9% ( 690,251)** - grades 10-12

**.0 1% ( 49,708)** - Post High School

**.0 1% ( 105,258)** - Out of School

**.0 1% ( 59,231)** - Special



#### **Educational Content**

4-H participants may be enrolled in more than one Project area in a given year. On average, 4-H participants enrolled in 1.7 different areas.

**597,685** Citizenship and  
Civic Education

**996,307**  
Communications and  
Expressive Arts

**542,679** Consumer and  
Family Sciences

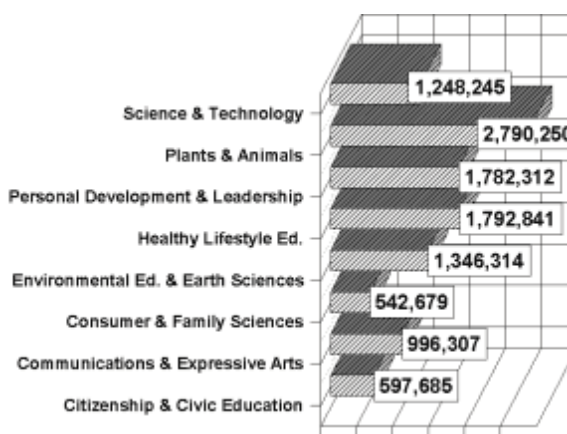
**1,346,314** Environmental  
Ed. & Earth Sciences

**1,792,841** Healthy  
Lifestyle Education

**1,782,312** Personal  
Development and  
Leadership

**2,790,250** Plants and  
Animals

**1,248,245** Science and  
Technology



## Volunteers in 4-H

Volunteers are essential to the successful delivery of 4-H programs to youth. **610,595** volunteer leaders worked directly and indirectly with 4-H youth, in 2000.

**494,260** - 4-H adult  
leaders

**116,335** - 4-H junior teen  
leaders

**447,911** Volunteers work  
directly with youth

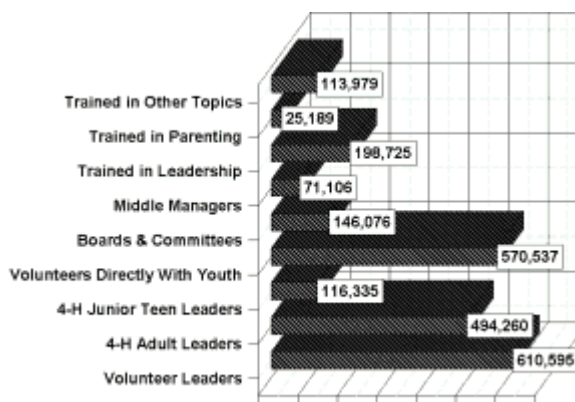
**122,419** Members of  
Boards and Committees

**53,797** Middle  
Managers, working with  
other Youth and Adult  
Volunteers

**198,725** Volunteers were  
trained in Leadership

**25,189** Volunteers were  
trained in Parenting

**113,979** Volunteers were  
trained in other topics



## The 4-H Mission

4-H Youth Development Education creates supportive environments for culturally diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential. In support of this mission, we will:

- Provide formal and non-formal community-focused experiential learning.
- Develop skills that benefit youth throughout life.
- Foster leadership and volunteerism in youth and adults.
- Build internal and external youth/adult partnerships for programming and funding.
- Strengthen families and communities
- Use research-based knowledge and the land-grant university system.

*Achievement of this mission will result in capable, competent, and caring citizens.*

### The 4-H Vision

Becoming a world leader in developing youth to become productive citizens and catalysts for positive change to meet the needs of a diverse and changing society.

### The 4-H Pledge

I pledge my **Head** to clearer thinking, my **Heart** to greater loyalty, my **Hands** to larger service and my **Health** to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

### The 4-H's

**Head** -- clearer thinking and decision making. Knowledge useful throughout life.

**Heart** - greater loyalty, strong personal values, positive self concept, concern for others.

**Hands**- larger service, workforce preparedness, useful skills, science and technology literacy.

**Health** - better living, healthy lifestyles.

### The 4-H Value Set

- We believe that youth development is the focus of everything we do.
- We believe youth/adult partnerships are essential to successful youth development.
- We believe that volunteerism is fundamental.
- We believe in the strength attained from diversity across the entire range of 4-H experiences.

### The 4-H Motto

*"To make the best better"*